A Glance at the Homes of the Grand Dukes and Czars of the Past.

Prince Potemkin's Feathery Romance-The Imperial Crown of Russia.

Some of the Magnificent Palaces and Gorgeous Jewels-The Great Orloff Diamond.

[WILLIAM E. CUBTIS, IN CHICAGO NEWS.] One may look in vain for the picturesque in the architecture of the residence or business portion of Petersburg. No buildings are notable for originality of conception, nor has there been any attempt to introduce



A COUNTBY SETTLEMENT.

rariety. One building follows the other, mile after mile along the broad streets, all of them constructed on the same pattern and of the same height. The eye is nowhere gratified either by artistic groupings or novel effects. The entire city is a mo-notony of five or six story stuccoed palaces, or apartment houses, of enormous size, no distinction between those that are used for dwellings and those for business purposes. It is the rule for the banker to live in the apartments above his counting-house, for the lawyer to rent the ground floor of his residence for a shop, and for the merchant to live under the same roof with his stock of

There are one or two exceptions to the monotony of architecture. One is what is known as the marble palace, although there is vory little marble about it, scarcely enough to justify the name. It was erected by Catherine the Great for one of her lovers in 1770, but subsequently fell into the possession of the Grand Duke Constantine, the brother of the late czar, whose widow still resides there and who is famous for the value of her jewels. It is an impos-ing building of granite and iron, surrounded by beautiful and extensive grounds, the roof leon L. eriticising the crown of his hat as it

LAND OF THE NIHILIST. and, instead of discogning himself, smushed the whole thing to atoms with his cane, at the same time nearly nurdering his escort who remonstrated with him.

His friends and attaches knew when his passions were coming by a quivering of his lips, and usually fled for their lives. He brutally killed a number of people by beating them with his cane or sword, and once cut off the ears of his coachman with his own bands. He was an ugly looking man, and exceedingly sensitive about his appearance, suspecting that every one who laughed or smiled in his presence was making fun of him, and they suffered for it.

One of his edicts was that whenever he

suffered for it.

One of his edicts was that whenever he passed along the street every one should stop, and, turning their faces toward him, how their heads till he went by. He invented forms of dress for the people, and compelled everybody to adopt them. He would send women from his bails to prison because their gowns were not cut to suit him. If he thought a woman appeared in his presence too plainly dressed he would punish her, or if he considered another too richly dressed, she would go to prison for that offense. As he was seldom in the same mood, and as what pleased him one day would throw him into a furious passion on the next, the lords and ladies of his court were continually in a state of painful uncerwere continually in a state of painful uncer-tainty whether they would spend the next day or month of their lives in a palace or a

One of the Old Laws. One evening at a ball he saw a gentleman whose style of dressing his hair did not please him, so Paul called an officer and sent the poor victim to a barber with orders to

him brought back with his head

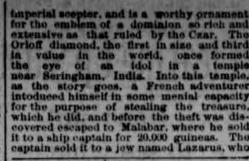
issued an edict setting forth the mount of money travelers might earry with them when they left Russia. The ordinary man might take with him 200 rubles or so, according to the length of time he was to be away; the nobles might have a little more, say five hundred or a thousand rubles, while the princes might take two or three thousand in their wallets. The theory of this edict was that too much money was

being spent out of the country. Paul wanted his subjects to spend their wealth at home. He organized his army on the same whims. He had regiment compose of 1,000 men, every one of whom was pock-marked; another was organized of men with large noses another of men with small noses. There

was a rule, also, that THE EMPEROR PAUL. all the men in each company or battalion should be of exactly the same stature, the same complexion, and the same color of the eyes.

How One Czar Died.

The manner of his death was very tragic, for his brutality finally wore out the submissive spirit of even the Russians, and h-was killed by the officers of his court. The day of his death is said to have been the





THE JEWELS OF THE EMPRESS.

offered it for sale at Petersburg. Catherine offered it for sale at Petersburg. Catherine refused to accept his terms, so he carried the jewel to Amsterdam, where Count Orloff saw it, purchased it for 450,000 pounds sterling, and laid it in the lap of his imperial mistress the next time he saw her. The stone weighs 185 carats, and is valued at \$2,399, 410. It is the largest of all the great the same of the same as all of the same o diamonds, but has a slight flaw, or black stain.

The imperial crown of all the Russias, and the finest and costliest of all the world, is in the form of a bishop's mitre, and carries on its crest a cross commost beautiful dix-monds ever cut. sup-

porting the largest ruby in the world. Eleven great diamonds, in ioliated arch, rising from the front and back of the crown, support this cross and ruby, and

this cross and ruby, and on either side is a hoop of thirty-eight vast and perfect pearls, whose value is simply a matter of conjecture, or what any trillionaire would be willing to pay for them. There are no handsomer ones known. The domed spaces on either side of these arches of pearls are filled with leaf-work of silver, every spray being thickly set with large diamonds and the whole underlaid with purple velvet. The band on which the crown is supported, and band on which the crown is supported, and which surrounds the brow of the Emperor. is studded with enormous diamonds, twenty-eight in number. The orb carries a large

eight in number. The orb carries a large sapphire of a greenish color, and a fine diamond of clongated form.

The coronet of the Empress is said to be the most beautiful and valuable mass of diamonds ever brought together in a single ornament. The four largest are remarkable for their perfect shape and color, being exactly of the same weight and size, so that even an expert cannot tell one from another. There are eighteen other stones of a slightly smaller size, which are also perfectly smaller size, which are also perfectly matched with eighty more of slightly less weight, also perfectly matched, the whole being set in a pattern and surrounded by a great number of stones, any one of which

would be a prize to any owner.

Besides these costly treasures, there are a number of other ornaments fit to bear them company. There is a necklace which the Czarina sometimes wears, which is composed of twenty-two of the largest diamonds cnown, and another of fifteen stones, even larger. The famous plume of Suveroff, an aigrette composed entirely of diamonds, was presented by the Sultan of Turkey as a price of peace to Gen. Suveroff, and by him transferred to the crown. Another famous jewel in the collection is known to lapidaries as "The Shuh." It is a long, peculiar-shaped erystal, presented to the Emperor of Russia by the Shah Mizra also as a price of peace. It has Persian characters engraved upon it. There is also a necklace com-posed of 300 truly imperial pearls, several strands of which hang over the breast of the Empress like a net when she

wears them, and are of priceless value. Among the collection there are also several lecorations worn by the Czars on occasions of great ceremony, the collar and badge of St. Andrew, the order of St. George, and numerous other decorations of great value presented to the rulers of Russia from time time by their contemporary sovereigns. The crown jewels were formerly shown to visitors at the winter palace upon a pass from the Grand Chamberlain, but since the present Czar has been upon the throne greater precautions have been taken, and to see them now requires the intercession of

Darkness Has Unknown Terrors.

"For heaven's sake, turn up the light! Do it quick, or I shall go mad!"

A woman's voice almost screeched forth this command. She lay tossing upon an iron cot in a room in one of the Minneapolis hospitals. She was young in years, but the deep lines on her still handsome face and her general appearance were only too suggestive of a life of wild dissipation. She was a woman of the town. A fever had been the means of her removal from a house of sin to the pleasant quarters in the hospital. She had awakened from a two weeks' unconscious sleep when she opened her eyes to find herself in a semidarkened room. She appeared to be greatly frightened. The pleasant faced young woman officiating as nurse rushed to the window and pulled up the curtain at her wild cry. The hospital physician, who was in the room at the time and who stood at the sick woman's bedside, spoke kindly to her and said: "There is nothing to be frightened at; but I'll see that your room is never darkened again while you are here."

"Thanks," said the trembling girl, and in a moment she was far off again in

"That little episode may seem a trifle

queer to you," said the doctor to a vis-

dreamland.

in a professional way with these women. There is nothing under heaven that they lear, well or ill, so much as darkness. And they are all the same way. A year's experience in the life they follow brings about this result. The cause? That would be hard to explain. Perhaps they have visions that are unpleasant, even horrible. Perhaps they think, I've noticed one peculiarity about this She made him Prince of Taurida and class of women, they are happiest when built him this palace, in which she spent a good part of her time. The ball-room is they are not given time to think. Natural, too. All alike? Indeed, yes. Find me one that will remain in a dark room either in company or alone for a moment without screaming and I will show you something I never saw in all my professional career and something I doubt that anyone eversaw."-Minne-

MRS. FRANK LESLIE will pose as

CONEY ISLAND. e of the Interesting Scenes and

A Governor and a Dude as Drawing Cards-High Prices Charged for Everything.

Characters Encountered at the

Famous Resort.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

No summer resort in the world contains such contrastingly high and low degrees of character as Coney Island. One end of this stretch of ocean beach holds two big hotels, where guests pay higher prices, on the average, than are exacted at any house in Saratoga or Long Branch. At the other extreme of Coney Island are to be found in wonderful profusion all the elements of cheapness suitable to an excursion place within quick reach of the city. The different sections of Coney Island bear such distinctive names as Manhattan. Brighton. West Brighton and West End, and each has its distinct characteristics. Go to Manhattan and you will see that mixture of elegance and coarseness illustrative of people v a plenty of money to spend according to



various tastes. Here I countered such standard and staple human wares of summer correspondence as Berry Wall and Tom Ochiltree. Berry has one excuse for being allowed to live, and that is his pretty, refined and delicate-looking wife. Berry is in rather more than his usual trouble over his debts, which he never pays, and which some creditors are foolish enough to try to collect by law. He is a deadhead here, as he can be at almost any summer hotel, because landlords doem his presence of value in providing something for paying guests to see and talk about. Governor Hill is a more slignified deadhead, and the first target and talk about. and the flag of the Governor floats over the house in his honor while he is within. His Secretary will go to the office, ask for a bill, and be told that there is none. That will end it, and is according to usage.

"That is the prettiest sight I have seen to-day," said Governor Hill to the writer, "and I have been the length of the island amus-ing myself with odd scenes."
What he saw so admiringly was simply a

quiet group, consisting of a neat young nursemaid with one chubby youngster in her arms and another tugging at her white apron. Such servitors of rich children are rely in summer luck, the ease and many of the luxuries of the place, with wages besides, and, in case they are comely, men are generally democratic enough to admire them quite as heartily as



though they were mistresses instead of

One of the hotels at this end of the island is kept as exclusive as possible to its boarders. Transient traffic is not encouraged, and it is hard to tell what wouldn't be done to a presumptuous excursion party who underpresumptuous excursion party who under-took to spread their own luncheon any-where on the premises. But this rigidity of rule is not applied to those who come pre-pared to pay the high prices for food and lodging. The house quarters the same va-riety of people to be found at the Saratoga or Long Branch caravansaries, where the sporting element is strong and folks with sensitive fastidiousness are constantly shocked by touching elbows with human miscellany. The other hotel has a big band of music, an acre or two of restaurant, and all the liberty possible to reasonably be-haved visitors able to pay extravagant prices for food and drink. It is here that the most strikingly dressed summer girls in creation can be seen. Two specimens sit on, the piazza, listening to the music and gazing coolly on the observant crowd, as I make notes for this letter. Their hats are marvels of picturesque millinery; their striped black-and-white bodices assert themselves emphatically, and one toys with a long-handled quizzing glass, while the other daintily dabs her nose with a big rose. They have come down from the city for an afternoon of sea



her exquisitely modish coatume, exactly correct and tasteful in every quiet detail, and aware of the amount of careful thought that has to be bestowed upon that tasteful sort of dressing, could imagine that her



head was packed full of book learning. But it was so, I would print her name, only that there is no use in overloading her mail with letters from men who would scramble for a chance to woo a maiden who combines so much knowledge

maiden who combines so much knowledge and presentability.

A good preportion of New-Yorkers practice the old annual custom of escaping from the Fourth of July. They have done this annually without skipping a year, and therefore have not learned that the racket of Independence Day has of late been almost silenced. Without any military parade or public fires works, the anniversary is quiet as compared with its former turbulence. There is some ringing of bells and firing of cannon to bring in the Fourth at midnight, but after that the making of din is left to boys. The archins are willing enough, but their resources are apt to be exhausted before noon, and so the rest of the day is not productive of very loud patriotism. But the well-to-do people fice from the city just the same, and so the hotel portions of Long Island have this week been crowded to their utmost. Politicians of note have elected and defeated Presidential candidates with assiduous discussion. Wali candidates with assiduous discussion. Wall street men have theorized about that dull-ness of speculation which has left them hardly money enough to take any costly summer diversion, and the horse-racing in the neighborhood has commanded the usual

Many a group on the grand stand at the same agroup on the grain' stand at the race course is remarkable for its lionizing of some gray old fellow by fashionable young girls. This is explained by the fact that he is the owner of a stable of racers, and at all events an established authority in turf matters, and the belies are glad of his guidance in making their wagers. The harsomest in making their wagers. The hansomest dude alive stands no chance with them at these times, because the girls have no confidence in his youthful horse talk, and their eagerness for tips is one of the most amusing sights of a race day. Feminine betting has been so general at Shoepshead Bay this summer that one could hardly find a woman



on the grand stand, no matter what her social grade, who is not openly and often ex-citedly risking her money.

Pleasanter to look at than any of the so-

phisticated people at this resort are the multitudes of children. Coney Island is only a stretch of sand along the ocean edge of marshes, and the wind and water of every violent storm makes changes in its outlines. The sand is heaped into dunes, between which are occasionally miniature pends so shallow that the youngsters can wads in them. Several of these sheets of unruffled water are used by the children for the sailwater are used by the emission for the sail-ing of toy yachts, and a removal of shoes and stockings, and a rolling up of trousers or pantalets makes a boy or girl ready for the sport. Thus, while the surf on the beaches exposed to the ocean are peopled by frisky adults in sometimes risky bathing costumes, the smooth shallows present more anocent spectacles of juvenile outing.

I have already remarked the high prices harged for everything at this end of Coney Island. Not only are the figures on the restaurants' bills of fare bigger than those of Delmonico, but the viands are seldon satisfactory, not so much owing to the bad quality as to delay in serving them. To get a meal here one has to wait and scramble for a place and generally submit to the annovances of an incompetent or careless waiter, no matter how generously he may tip him. But when I chatted with a landlord about the extravagant charges, and suggested to him that moderation in that respect would ultimately bring more profit he brought a spy-glass and directed me to

What do you show me that for?" I asked. "Because that structure is an illustration

look to the castward, where I would discern a very large building on the shore some



pay," he replied. "That is the largest building ever erected for a hotel at a summer resort. It stands on the beach at Rockaway, and it has been without a tenant ever since an abortive attempt was made to open it four years ago. Its projectors believed that it was going to be a magnificent success, and they impressed their views upon capitalists to such an extent that a clear million of capital was secured. The late William H. Vanderbilt, John Mackey, and other equally astute financiers bought stock, but they can't get any solid, ex-perienced hotel man to open it for them, and they don't care to take the risk of running it themselves, so it remains empty. I make a practice of showing it to every one who tells me, as you have done, that an outsider knows more about keeping a hotel

The fast and furious fun of Coney Island is to be found at Brighton. West Brighton, and the West End. Here are to be found a multiplicity of side-shows and other de-vices for catching the dimes of *the vices for catching the dimes of the afternoon and evening crowds from the city. Just now one of these is a genuine encampment of gypsics. There are half a dozen swarthy men and women, speaking with a strong rural English accent, but distinctly gypsy-like in appearance. The women tell fortunes, and sell love-charms. Another enterprise which thrives to some extent on sentimer-ality is devoted to the breeze and bacqueting. They do not mind their lack of male escort, and yet they are decorous enough in conduct, although flamboyant in attire.

Not far off sat a pair of contrastingly different excursionists. The white-boarded and spectacled old man, as I happeness to some extent on sentimeriality is devoted to the portrayal of future husbands and wives to curious swains and maidens. You purchase a square piece of tin, overlaid with some sort of chemicals, and when you dip this into water a face is developed on it.

One of the showiest young women at the swell end of the island is a serio-comic singer in four variety shows at the other ex.

In a Panther's Embrace.

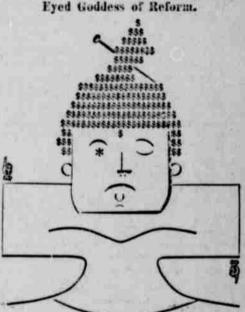
Short, savage roars broke upon my ear, mingled with the wild shouts of the ear, mingled with the wild shouts of the natives, who were evidently being chased by the now furious beast, says a writer in the Times of India. At this crisis I felt that my hat would probably do more for me than my gun, so I crushed the former on my head, and, without waiting to adjust the chinstrap, I seized the latter in my hands and faced the enemy. The parther had and faced the enemy. The panther had meanwhile floored a beater and got him by the arm, but, dropping him, she at once came for me with lightning bounds. could see nothing, owing to the beast's tremendous speed, but a shadowy-looking form with two large, bright, round eyes fixed upon me with an unmeaning stare as it literally flew toward me. Such was the vision of a moment. My presence of mind did not desert me. I raised my gun and fired with all the care I could at such short notice. But I missed, and the panther landed, light as a feather, with its arms round my shoulders. Thus we stood for a few seconds, and I distinctly felt the animal sniffing for my threat.

Mechanically I always tarned my head so as to keep the thick, wadded

curtain of my helmet cover in front of the creature's muzzle; but still I could hear and feel plainly the rapid yet cautious efforts it was making to find an opening so as to tear open the jugular vein. I had no other weapon but my gun, which was useless with the animal closely embracing me, so I stood per-fectly still, well knowing that Sandford would liberate me if it were possible to do so. At the first onslaught we were so placed that he could only have hit the panther by firing through me, which would have been very injudicious, to say the least of it. As may easily be supposed, the animal did not spend much time in investigating the nature of a wadded hat-cover, and before my friend could get round and take an aim without jeopardizing my own life the beast pounced on my left elbow, taking a piece out, and then buried its long sharp fangs in the joint till they met. At the same time I was hurled to the earth with such force that I knew not how I got there or what become of my

Still, throughout I maintained a clear impression of what was going on. I knew that I was lying on the ground with the panther on the top of me, and I could feel my elbow joint wobbling in and out as the brute ground its jaws with a movement imperceptible to the bystanders, but which felt to me as though I were being violently shaken all over. Now I listened anxiously for the report of Sandford's shot, which I knew would be heard immediately, and carefully refrained from making the slightest sound or movement lest his aim should be disturbed thereby. In a few seconds the loud and wecome detonation, which from its proximity almost deafened me, strack upon my ear. I sat up. I was free. The panther gone!

Lines to a Busted Statue of the Star-Eyed Goddess of Reform.



BY BILL NYR. With Apologies to other Poets, Sculptors and Job Printers. [Blank Ferse.]

O Star-eyed Goddess with the Psyche knot, Which I endeavored in my poor, weak way To fasten on the corner of your still, cold brow, How eat you look and what a settled melanseems to cluster in your scrambled hair!

Tis seldom in my whole career, I wot, That I have saw a sight patheticker, Or ever have me eyes, I ween, Seen stone look rockier than thou.

You strike me like a person who has sought To introduce your justly celebrated reforma-tions In this town, and while engaged in that capa-

Got injured on the face and eyes. If so, do not despair, but struggle on; Immerse your swollen features in a cold, wet

clam.

And if at any time you wish to be identified just call on me.

Systematic.

A drummer took the elevator to the fifth story of a Western wholesale house and walked into the office where one of the proprietors was busy at his desk. The drummer was informed that the house needed nothing in his line, but persisted in opening his sample bag and making himself the cause of much distress, when finally the enraged proprietor kicked him down the first flight of stairs. An employe, observing his mode of descent, repeated the dose with like effect, and it was dittoed till the drummer found himself on the curbstoned and upholstered highway. Shaking himself he looked back over the course of events and ejaculated:

"Vell, dot ish a great establishment. I don't know dere berticular line of pishness, but mein Gott, what system!" -Duluth Paragrapher.

It Worked Too Well.

"How did that burglar alarm turn out?"

"Worked very well, oh?" "Yes; when it went off it alarmed everybody in the house so badly that the burglars got off with over thing before we were over being rattled."-



who fortified it and dedicated it to the Archangel Michael. It is a gloomy pile, and an architectural monstrosity, the exterior being loaded with all sorts of incongruous ornaments and each of the four fronts being "Because no one of that name ever ruled"

Because no one of that name ever ruled ornaments and each of the four fronts being of an entirely different design. Over the principal entrance are inscribed the words: "Then I shall be Nicholas the First," re-

The Whims of a Czar. This eastle was a whim of the Emperor Paul, who built it in the most extraordinary

manner, having five thousand men employed



ROADSIDE CROSS.

apon it for three years until it was finished. The more quickly to dry the plastering he had large iron plates made which were heated red hot and fastened to the walls. The palace cost 10,000,000 rubles, or about \$50,000,000, but if any sort of ceremony or common sense had been applied in the construction it need not have cost more than 2,000,000. The interior is, however, very fine, some of the great halls being entirely of Carrara marble, exquisitely carved by art-ists imported from Florence to do the work. It is now occupied as a school of engineers

for the army. The room in which Paul was murdered was walled up for fifty years, but is now used as a chapel for the students. He was as eccentric a monarch as the late King Ludwig of Bavaria, and one can scarcely read the account of his conduct without believing that he was insune. He inherited the luxurious tastes of his mother, Catherine the Great, and sometimes during his lucid moments showed glimpses of her talent, but he was an habitual drunkard, and gave way to fits of passion, in which he



ABBABSINATION OF PAUL.

was nothing more nor less than a murderwas nothing more nor less than a murder of her husband, and has seen this uncompleted palace the skirts of his coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the coat caught on the arms of a chandelter of the murder of her husband, and has seen many royal tenants, but is now used for a military barracks.

The Great Orioff Diamond.

It was Count Orioff Diamond.

Mrs. Frank Lest. Cleopatra for charity.

fleet the setting sun.

Another exception to the prevailing order of sameness is the Michael palace, a castellated structure built by the Emperor Paul, who fortified it and dedicated it to the Archwho fortified it and dedicated it to the Archwho

"On thy house will the blessing of the Lord rest forever."

Lord rest forever."

The I shall be kicholas the First, replied the boy.

For an in-tant the Empress feared some

thing dreadful would happen to the child, for any allusion to his successor on the throne usually threw him into a raving passion. To her surprise he simply took up the boy and kissed him. Then he left the house and dined with his mistress, where he spoke of Alexander I., his oldest son and heir, in such a manner that the woman, excusing herself from his presence for a mo-ment, sent a message to Alexander warning to encounter his father while was in his present mood. As he left the house he remarked to her that she would be istonished at the way heads would fall dur-ng the next few days, which looks as if he had some knowledge of the conspiracy to

kill him. After he had retired the consiprators, who were mostly officers of his own household outraged beyond all endurance by his cruelty to them, made their way to his abdicating the throne in favor of his son Alexander, or death at their hands. He chose death and attempted to defend him-self, having an arm broken and one eye put out in the strugle that ensued.

The Palace of Potemkin.

Near the Michael Palace is another of the remarkable palaces of Petersburg, and one which is considered the handsomest of them This is what is called the Taurida Pal ace, built by Catherine the Great for the most famous of her lovers, the Prince



THE OBLOFF DIAMOND.

Poternkin. It was here that he is supposed to have been secretly married to the Empress. Potentkin's life was a remance, and he owed his elevation to a feather. During the revolution which Catherine ineited against her husband, and by which she rounds, "but it won't when I explain a little. I've had many years' experience little. I've had many years' experience reached the throne, Potenkin was a Lieu-tenant in a regiment which followed her fortunes, and the day when Catherine came out to take command of the troops he, see-ing that she had no feather in her hat, left his piace in the ranks, and kneeling before her offered PA cwn. He was a handsome young fellow, and Catherine was much taken by the act of gallantry, as was Elizabeth of England by the courtliness of Sir Walter Raleigh. She at once had him detailed as her ald-de-camp. He soon became her lover, and afterward, as is sup-

good part of her time. The ball-room is considered the finest room in Russia, being of different colored marble and lighted by 20,000 wax candles, while the rest of the palace corresponds. The building was oc-cupied by Marie, the widow of Paul, after the murder of her husband, and has seen many royal tenants, but is now used for a military barracks.